

The magnificent hopes of 1829-42 ended, of course, in bitter disillusionment, but not without leaving ineradicable marks behind them. As Chartism dwindled, Trade Unionism, on much more modest lines, revived, the "new Spirit" led to the "new Model" "the generous but impracticable 'universalism' of the Owenite and Chartist organisations was replaced by the principle of the protection of the vested interests of the craftsman in his occupation."

This was, largely, the work of that able group of remarkable men known as The Junta—of whom an unforgettable series of portraits are drawn men of high personal character and exceptional business capacity, shrewd, conciliatory, competent, disinterested, with "a large share of that official decorum which the English middle-class find so impressive." Their steadiness carried the Trade Union movement through the strain and stress of the depression of the 'sixties and 'seventies, the time of the "Sheffield Outrages" and the Royal Commission of 1869-70, when such superb aid was lent to their cause by men like Tom Hughes and Frederic Harrison, and, when the General Election came in 1874, largely contributed to the defeat of the Gladstonian Government and the repeal, by the Tones, of his Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1871, an act as much resented in its day as was the Taff Vale Judgment a quarter of a century later. The price of this success was however that, while the leaders complacently accepted the dominant economic outlook of

the day, the
movement sank into a complacent quietism
"crossed by
an embittered sectionalism "

From this it was sharply roused by events
and by the
challenge of a series of young, new leaders, all
personally
known to the Webbs In a chapter as lively as
it is
authoritative, they give an account of events
within their
own knowledge, including the shift of the
centre of gravity
in the Trade Union world from the
craftsmen's organ-